

RECOGNIZING SEPTEMBER 2026 AS SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH

WHEREAS, suicide is a serious public health issue that affects individuals, families, and communities across all demographics, including students, educators, and families within our school district; and

WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, suicide is the second leading cause of death among individuals aged 10-24, making suicide prevention in schools a critical priority; and

WHEREAS, the warning signs of suicide risk can often be recognized, and suicide is preventable through awareness, education, early intervention, and access to mental health resources; and

WHEREAS, schools play a vital role in suicide prevention by creating safe, supportive environments where students feel connected to their school community, trusted adults, and peers; and

WHEREAS, Santa Rosa City Schools is committed to fostering the mental health and well-being of all students through comprehensive programs, training for staff, and partnerships with mental health professionals and community organizations; and

WHEREAS, September has been designated as National Suicide Prevention Month to raise awareness about suicide prevention and to promote resources and strategies that can save lives; and

WHEREAS, the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and serves as a vital resource for our community; and

WHEREAS, by working together as educators, families, students, and community members, we can create a culture of care that prioritizes mental health, reduces stigma, and ensures that every student knows they are valued and supported;

WHEREAS, the California Department of Education, through its Office of School-Based Health and Safety, provides essential guidance and technical assistance to strengthen school safety plans and student behavioral health supports; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Santa Rosa City Schools Board of Education hereby proclaims September 2026 as **SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH** throughout our school district, in alignment with California Education Code Section 215; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we encourage all schools, staff, students, families, and community partners to:

- Participate in suicide prevention awareness activities and educational programs
- Learn to recognize warning signs and know how to respond appropriately
- Promote mental health resources available to students and families
- Foster environments where students feel safe to seek help when needed
- Work to reduce stigma surrounding mental health challenges
- Support evidence-based suicide prevention initiatives
- Enhance skills through behavioral health incentive programs and trauma-informed practice trainings

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we reaffirm our commitment to providing comprehensive mental health support services, crisis intervention resources, and ongoing professional development for staff to serve better the social-emotional needs of all students in our district.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Education of Santa Rosa City Schools, on this 26th day of August 2026, by the following vote:

AYES: ____ NOES: ____ ABSENT: ____ ABSTAIN: ____

Sarah Jenkins, Clerk of the Board

Date

